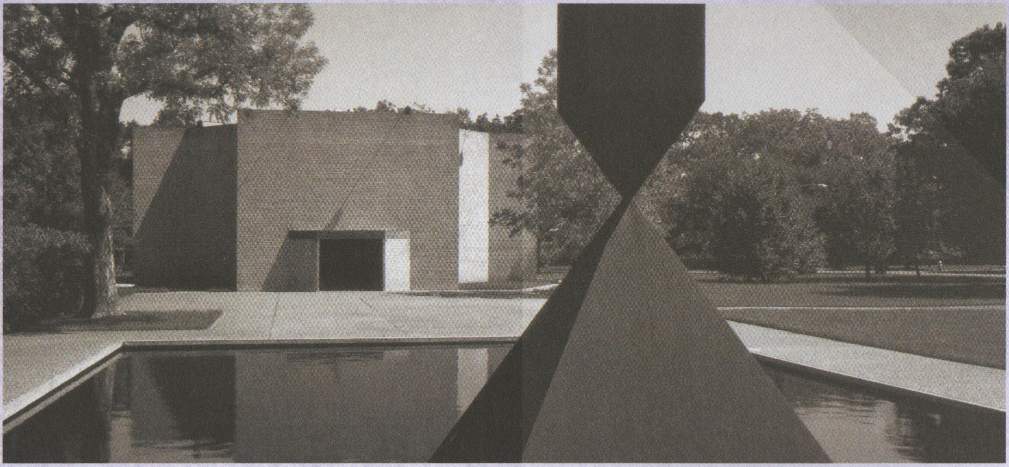
Rothko Chapel

Be in the moment.

Open your mind.

The Rothko Chapel is a sacred space, a forum for world leaders, a place for solitude and gathering. It is an epicenter for civil rights, a quiet disruption, a stillness that moves. The beauty of the Chapel is that your experience alone defines it, and each visit builds on the one that came before it. Let your journey of discovery start here, leading to a lifetime of growth, contemplation, and action. You are always welcome.

Understand the history.



The Rothko Chapel opened in 1971 as a landmark of modern sacred art and a sanctuary for contemplation. It serves as a global destination for people of all faiths, and a pilgrimage for art lovers and spiritual seekers alike.

In the words of Dominique de Menil,

> "We saw what a great master can do for a religious building when he is given a free hand. He can exalt and uplift as no one else."

Dominique and John de Menil, the Chapel founders, were influenced by the global ecumenical movement, the Second Vatican Council, and France's efforts to bring modern art and architecture into places of worship.

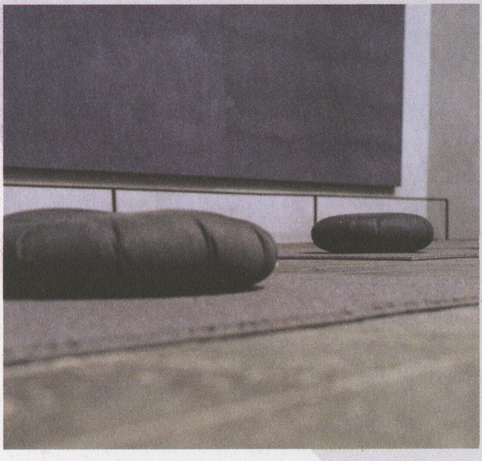
Influenced by artist Henri Matisse's Chapel of the Rosary in Vence and architect LeCorbusier's chapel Notre Dame du Haut in Ronchamp, the de Menils commissioned artist Mark Rothko in 1964 to create a sacred space for Houston.

Contemplate.

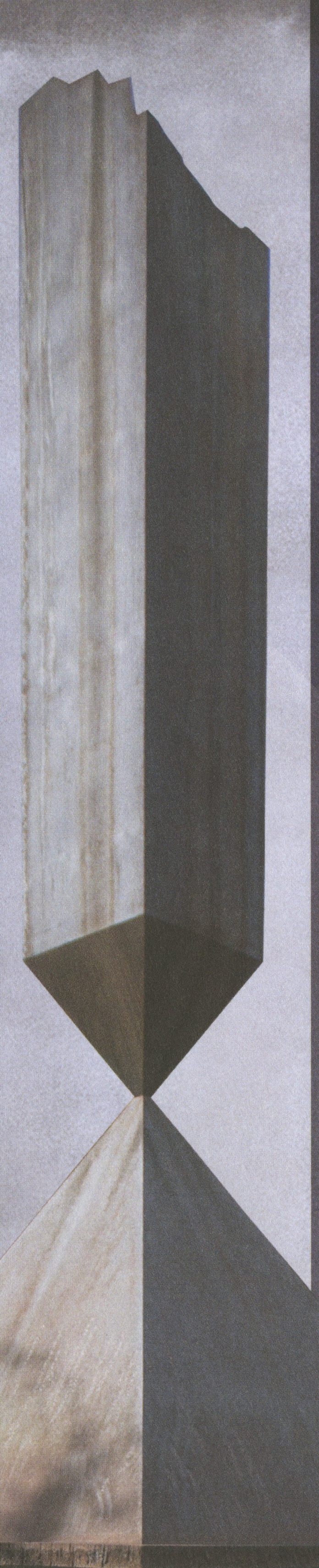
The Rothko Chapel offers a spiritual respite from the busyness of life in the fourth largest city in the United States.

People from all parts of the world and all walks of life visit the Chapel every day for renewal and restoration.

You are invited to experience prayer, meditation, religious services, lectures, and concerts or simply sit in silence among the fourteen Mark Rothko murals.



> “The Chapel must go beyond opening its doors to those who are already united. It must provide a common place where men and women of different traditions can meet.”
>
> – Dominique de Menil



Be inspired.

The Chapel is actively engaged in the the struggle for human rights. That is a central premise of the mission.

Just outside the doors, Barnett Newman's *Broken Obelisk* stands in support of this commitment. Dedicated to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the sculpture honors his ministry and lifetime of service.

The Chapel welcomes and supports community activists, artists, and religious leaders, and has been privileged to host Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú, and President Jimmy Carter.

The Óscar Romero Award ceremony, held every two years, recognizes courageous, grassroots human rights advocacy. The award, which lifts the voices of remarkable people who face enormous economic and political pressures, and often personal peril, represents the Chapel's most important human rights work. Archbishop Óscar Romero of San Salvador was a vocal advocate of peace who openly opposed violence and oppression in his country. He was martyred on March 24, 1980.

Act.

Volunteer with the Rothko Chapel Guild.

Join our active community of dedicated volunteers and help support the Rothko Chapel's activities and programs. For more information, visit **rothkochapel.org** or email **info@rothkochapel.org.**

Become a Friend of the Rothko Chapel.

The Rothko Chapel is an independent, nonprofit institution that relies on the generosity of its donors to remain free and open to the public every day of the year.

Give

Online: rothkochapel.org | Email: development@rothkochapel.org
Call: 713-660-1407 | Mail: 1409 Sul Ross Street, Houston, TX 77006
On-site: Chapel welcome desk

Visit

Rothko Chapel
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Contact

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Cover photo by Christian Heeb

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